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12-5-01

Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Docket # 34250-33



Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

David L. KEEFE

Serial No.: 09/891,598

Filed: June 25, 2001

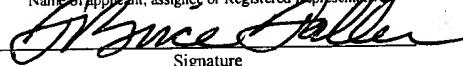
For: Meiotic Spindle Imaging In Oocytes And Uses
Therefor In In Vitro Fertilization

Examiner:
Group Art:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

October 16, 2001
(Date of Deposit)

F. Brice Faller
Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative


Signature

October 16, 2001
Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

follows:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The invention is based, at least in part, on the discovery that meiotic spindles in living mammalian oocytes, in particular living human oocytes, can be imaged non-invasively and without damage. In one embodiment, imaging of oocytes is achieved using an orientation-independent polarized light microscope referred to herein as a "polscope". The polscope uses digital image processing to improve sensitivity, and nearly circularly polarized light combined

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